

8/27/70

Dear Nick and friends,

This is a combined request and report, bit belated, between the end of a bit of work and before lunch.

I've won the first suit on the assassination repressions and suppressions, under 5 U.S.C. 552, the so-called "Freedom of Information" act, entirely unreported out there, to the best of my knowledge, unless the LATimes used a Wash Post story (6fx which, if they did, I'd like a copy). I've written a piece on it for the National Enquirer, there being no interest elsewhere and the Post having reneged on a deal we had made. I presume it will appear after they have confirmed it to their style and shortened it.

The work I just finished was the drafting of the next two complaints, in the next two suits I'll file. After lunch, unless I work outside, I'll begin the next. If necessary, I plan a series, having gone through all the long and tedious requisite steps (it is not at all like the Skolnick thievery-self publicity makes it appear, but takes much time and effort).

In some case, the threat of suit is sufficient. I've just gotten several things denied until I filed the preliminary papers, and they are significant. I hope to incorporate them in writing soon.

I believe our immediate best hopes, especially with the legal fiascos that have so undermined our credibility, is in the courts, where we can select the issues we wish to litigate. And the defendants. My first was against Justice alone, with State included in the complaint but not thereafter, and made an incredible and very important record, as you'll see in the Enquirer story if they use the documentation I supplied. The others will involve up to five agencies, in every case including Justice.

Were it not that I lack the \$25 for the required out-of-state bond, I'd have filed against Skolnick in Chicago. I did draft and send the complaint. I will reinstitute it when I have the bonding fee and the means of getting to Chicago. He presents a most serious hazard to us and, were he so connected officially, could not better have served as a government agent. His "suit" was a blending of theivery from the appendix to my COUP D'ETAT and the most uninhibited and irrational ravings of a sick and irresponsible imagination, where he achieved the unique record of being undeviating wrong in everything he made up. I have copies of his documents before he incorporated them in the "suit", after he made a few changes in reforing, and they are mine, for the distinctive remarks that were added remain. He never made any request of the Archives, so how could he charge them with suppression? Aside from not meeting any of the requirements of the law (and he also claims the law under which he filed is unconstitutional, without any of the nuts who flocked to him having the sense to realize this alone disqualified his publicity-seeking ploy. If he gets thrown out of court or worse, if the government forces the case to trial, either way, we are hurt, especially because of the publicity he did get. My investigation is this complete: I have his receipt and thanks for my documents, which he contrived to get by misrepresenting his purpose to a mutual friend, pretending he wanted to carry my work forward.

Speaking of COUP, if this newest Marks plagiarism has appeared, I'd appreciate a copy. This time he even stole the title of a copyrighted work. Art Kunkin, typically, not having responded to requests for payment for books now more than two years overdue, has not responded to my letter about this. If Art uses or used that stuff, as he indicated, I'd appreciate copies of that, too, for he knew in advance of the plagiarism.

Will we-can we-survive all this dishonesty?

I have a new final chapter to add to the original COUP, where I have reason to hope for commercial publication of a severe contraction, and a little to add to the appendix, which will in other areas also be cut. If and when it is finalized and a pub date set, I'll let you know. I expect to hear in or by 20 days.

Now for the request. I'd appreciate it if you could get together, make some kind of estimate of the balance due me, aside from books (where I'd like the agreed refund of the shipping costs and only what you got from any copies sold) and send it as soon as possible. We continue without income and with continuing expenses, which mean only increased debt. While the situation in which your committee and its members may find yourselves may be less fortuitous than you might prefer, you all of you have some incomes and this is an obligation you did incur. Not only can I not afford it, but I'm even having to pay interest, as I have for almost two years. With the books it is different, for that did not require the outlay of cash for you.

Right after the Garrison trial, George told me by phone he had sent me \$100. It never got here and he never replied to my inquiries about it, for I wondered if it had gotten lost, as sometimes happens with my mail.

If you plan another issue, I hope your noses tell you what the Sprague thing is -and Chapman's, I've told you of Skolnick's. The more we publicize this awful nonsense, so much of which comes from well-intentioned and sincere but under-informed and overly-suspicious dedicated people, the worse off we all are. Unfortunately, the commercial and the underground press have an unerring instinct for the irresponsible, that which an intelligent mind cannot accept. It is their way of undermining us more.

Hope you are all, especially George, well and happy. I've heard nothing of him save that he seems to require and to be avoiding surgery.

If you have a copy of the alleged Ferrie letter from Confidential, I'd like to see that. I had a phone call from Joel Palmer, who indicated he was then completing a book (more shudders!), but nothing since. I presume he is its author. After what he did with Boxley and what they almost did to Garrison, I suppose I should regard that call as some kind of trap. Although he was just settling down there, expensively at that, he blew N.O. the weekend Boxley would not face me, the weekend I did confront him....It is all so strange, for I cannot believe either is some kind of agent...

Please, do, try and raise and send me whatever it is you think you owe. My need is more urgent than usual, and that is too urgent.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg